GOCCP
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION

Fact Sheet

Martin O'Malley
Governor

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Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID)

Working to Reduce Property Crime in Maryland

On October 1, 2009 SB 597 took effect requiring pawnbrokers and secondhand precious metal dealers to electronically report daily transactions to law enforcement. In order to manage this information and make it accessible to all law enforcement around the state, the Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID) was created: a central repository for all transaction data of pawn, secondhand precious metal, and automotive dismantler transition records in the state. RAPID has quickly become a favorite crime fighting tool to reduce property crime, both in Maryland and its bordering states, and is currently used as an investigative tool by over 2,000 users in 130 agencies including:

In State:

82 Maryland agencies

4 State agencies

3 State's Attorney's

5 Universities

Out of State/Other:

6 Delaware agencies

23 Pennsylvania agencies

10 Virginia agencies

1 West Virginia agency

4 Military agencies

5 Federal agencies

The State invested substantial resources in 2009 to shepherd the success of the RAPID system. GOCCP awarded a 3 year grant of $841,608 to the Maryland State Police to fund two positions (a Global Administrator and a Help Desk Technician), an enhanced server, and user licenses to add legislatively mandated dealers to RAPID. Grant funds enable MSP to coordinate, manage, and maintain the RAPID system. GOCCP awarded the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation $49,386 to fund a DLLR Investigator to work within the department's Secondhand Precious Metal Objects and Pawnbrokers Program, in partnership with the RAPID Governance Board.

Global Administrator

The Global Administrator (GA) is primarily responsible for program management and overall system security of RAPID, and provides administrative support, technical guidance, and system management functions for County System Administrators and the RAPID vendor. The GA also directs and coordinates law enforcement efforts in the area of investigation and suspect identification. The RAPID Governance Board is also chaired by the GA.

Help Desk Technician

The Help Desk Technician provides technical support to all authorized users, administrators and program managers of RAPID. This position is also responsible for creating and managing all Maryland State Police user and dealer accounts.

DLLR Investigator

The DLLR Investigator brings law enforcement experience to the Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers and Pawnbrokers Program within DLLR's Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. The Investigator assists with the licensing process, complaint control process, and dealer training while opening lines of communication among dealers, DLLR, and law enforcement.

RAPID Statistics

2011

- 642 arrests

- 882 cases closed

- $5.2 million recovered in stolen property

Since October 2009

- 1,431 arrests

- 1,731 cases closed

- $8.6 million recovered in stolen property

Participating Agencies

- Law enforcement (local, state, federal, and out of state)

- Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

- Maryland Comptroller's Office

- Motor Vehicle Administration

- Maryland Association of the Clerks of the Court

- The District Court of Maryland

- Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

Updated January 2012

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RAPID Governance Board

The RAPID Governance Board was established in August 2009 and is comprised of Maryland State Police, GOCCP, and the County Administrators' Board. This board ensures that best practices, investigative trends, recovered property, training, administration, and technical issues are shared among local jurisdictions.

SUCCESS STORIES

Scrap/Junk Metal

Legislation passed on May 4, 2010, requiring RAPID to include the electronic reporting of scrap/junk metal purchases. To date, RAPID has many active scrap investigations throughout the state and has made well over 850,000 scrap/junk metal transactions.

RAPID Future:

SIRAS Program

RAPID is currently testing out the SIRAS program which will be an exceptional tool in the fight against organized retail crime. This program is used by manufacturers and retailers to track their products to identify and deter theft. This program will provide investigators with the evidence necessary to make arrests and recover stolen property.

Out of State

Despite being a Maryland program, RAPID continues to expand its use to out of state agencies. Currently there are 40 out of state agencies that are benefitting from RAPID. This database is credited with solving cases and returning property to victims in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, California, and Florida.

➢ Anne Arundel County: The Anne Arundel County Police Department received a RAPID hit on a stolen gun out of Norfolk, VA. As a result of this hit, the suspect was charged with the Virginia theft and additionally charged with a theft from the Maryland pawn shop.

➢ Baltimore City: The Baltimore Police Department used RAPID to investigate a commercial burglary which resulted in 3 arrests and the recovery of $2.5 million in stolen scrap metal. The investigation is still ongoing and involves jurisdictions in Pennsylvania, New York, Switzerland, and Australia.

➢ Baltimore County: The Baltimore County Police Department used RAPID to assist the West Manheim Township Police in the recovery of over $44,000 worth of stolen jewelry taken from 6 burglary victims in Pennsylvania.

➢ Carroll County: Investigators received several reports of stolen property from various construction sites and commercial businesses, including several heat pumps. A RAPID check led investigators to several scrap dealers and the recovery of over $100,000 in property. Several arrests were made in this investigation.

➢ Howard County: A husband and wife were arrested for a string of burglaries after a woman's stolen 1971 high school ring, which was entered in the RAPID database, led the police department to their capture. In addition to the ring, over $4,000 in jewelry was recovered in this case.

➢ Prince George's County: Investigators identified 2 sellers of multiple scrap transactions for an electric service provider in the DC area. An investigation revealed that the property being sold was stolen from this service provider. Subsequently, 2 employees were arrested and over $200,000 worth of property was recovered.

➢ St. Mary's County: The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police used RAPID to identify 2 suspects selling large amounts of jewelry, some of which was wanted in connection to a burglary. The investigation led to the closure of two additional burglaries, the arrests of two suspects and the recovery of $13,750 out of $15,000 lost.

➢ Wicomico County: Maryland State Police and the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office used RAPID to recover a stolen diamond ring worth $1,000. An arrest was made, and the retrieved ring, which was a gift to the victim by her recently deceased husband, was returned. The suspect, who was arrested, was a neighbor with a drug habit.